

The Age of Enlightenment: Eighteenth-Century Thought

Chapter 9 Reading Guide

Focus Questions

9.1 Formative Influences on the Enlightenment

What was the intellectual and social background of the Enlightenment?

9.2 The Philosophes

Who were the philosophes?

9.3 The Enlightenment and Religion

How did the philosophes challenge traditional religious ideas and institutions?

9.4 The Enlightenment and Society

How did the philosophes apply Enlightenment ideas to social and economic problems?

9.5 Political Thought of the Philosophes

How did the philosophes apply Enlightenment ideas to political issues?

9.6 Women in the Thought and Practice of the Enlightenment

What role did women play in the Enlightenment?

9.7 Rococo and Neoclassical Styles in Eighteenth-Century Art

How did rococo and neoclassicism styles reflect and contribute to the prevailing trends of the age?

9.8 Enlightened Absolutism

What was enlightened absolutism?

Short Answer

According to Newton and others, nature is _____.

The Enlightenment flourished in a _____, that is, a culture in which books, journals, newspapers, and pamphlets had achieved a status of their own.

The centers for discussing ideas and printed material were _____.

Emilie Du Châtelet was influential in popularizing the ideas of _____.

Voltaire's most famous satire, _____, attacked war, religious persecution, and what he considered unwarranted optimism about the human condition.

The theology embraced by the philosophes was deism, ideally a _____ religion without fanaticism and intolerance.

_____ had few adherents in eighteenth-century Europe, with the notable exception of the Balkan Peninsula.

The _____ of France believed that mercantilist legislation and the regulation of labor by governments and guilds actually hampered the expansion of trade, manufacture, and agriculture.

Adam Smith is usually regarded as the founder of _____ economic thought and policy, which favors a limited role for the government in economic life.

One of Montesquieu's most far-reaching ideas was that of the division of _____ in government.

Rousseau blamed much of the evil in the world on unequal distribution of _____.

_____ envisioned a society in which each person could maintain personal freedom while behaving as a loyal member of the larger community.

Rococo architecture and decoration originated in early eighteenth-century _____ but was adapted to many public buildings and churches across Europe.

The phrase enlightened absolutism describes a _____ government dedicated to the rational strengthening of the central absolutist administration at the cost of lesser centers of political power.

In the First Partition, Poland lost nearly one-third of its territory to Russia, _____, and Austria.

Major Ideas of the Enlightenment		
Idea	Thinker	Impact
Natural rights—life, liberty, property	Locke	Fundamental to U.S. Declaration of Independence
Separation of powers	Montesquieu	France, United States, and Latin American nations use separation of powers in new constitutions
Freedom of thought and expression	Voltaire	Guaranteed in U.S. Bill of Rights and French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen; European monarchs reduce or eliminate censorship
Abolishment of torture	Beccaria	Guaranteed in U.S. Bill of Rights; torture outlawed or reduced in nations of Europe and the Americas
Religious freedom	Voltaire	Guaranteed in U.S. Bill of Rights and French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen; European monarchs reduce persecution
Women's equality	Wollstonecraft	Women's rights groups form in Europe and North America

Enlightenment Idea	U.S. Constitution
Locke A government's power comes from the consent of the people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preamble begins "We the people of the United States" to establish legitimacy. Creates representative government Limits government powers
Montesquieu Separation of powers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal system of government Powers divided among three branches System of checks and balances
Rousseau Direct democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public election of president and Congress
Voltaire Free speech, religious toleration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill of Rights provides for freedom of speech and religion.
Beccaria Accused have rights, no torture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill of Rights protects rights of accused and prohibits cruel and unusual punishment.